



# NORFOLK

*Office of the City Manager*

January 6, 2016

Jennifer Mitchell  
Director  
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
600 E. Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Ms. Emily Stock  
Manager of Rail Planning  
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
600 E. Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Washington, DC to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail Project Tier II EIS – Norfolk Comments

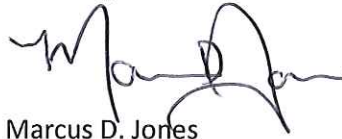
Dear Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Stock,

The City of Norfolk appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Richmond to Washington DC Tier II EIS. Norfolk fully supports the efforts that the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has undertaken to complete the Tier II EIS and its desire to construct faster, more efficient and reliable service from DC to Richmond as funding becomes available. This corridor is critical to the movement of passengers and freight through Virginia. These are exciting times for rail service in the Commonwealth.

Norfolk is expressing our interest in DRPT's commitment to advancing the Tier II EIS from Richmond to Norfolk. The Tier I for this service was completed in 2012 and the delivery of the additional conventional intercity passenger rail service utilizing existing Commonwealth investments. There are conventional intercity passenger rail frequencies attached to the paid improvements that are still waiting to be completed with two additional daily round trip trains Richmond to Norfolk. There is also one additional intercity passenger train to Newport News to come with later investment. I would like to express the necessity of providing this rail service Richmond to Norfolk and to Newport News prior to the commencement of any new service from Petersburg to North Carolina. It is imperative that the Tier II for the Norfolk connection coincide with the Washington to Richmond Tier II in order to provide seamless and equal service all the way from Washington to Norfolk and eventually into North Carolina. These services are an essential part of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor and a vital link for passenger service in our region, the largest urbanized area outside of Northern Virginia.

Thank you for all your efforts to expand rail service in Virginia. Please let me know if there is anything that Norfolk can do to support your work. I look forward to working with you to support the endeavor of additional passenger rail service in Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcus D. Jones', written in a cursive style.

Marcus D. Jones  
City Manager

cc: Norfolk City Council  
Bob Crum, HRTPO Executive Director